

Re : Preliminary Amendment
Appl. No. : 10/696,952
Filed : October 30, 2003

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending. By the above amendments, Applicants amended Claims 1-7 and 10; and added new Claims 11-20 to clarify, further define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a Notice of Allowance. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), no new matter is introduced by these amendments or new claims.

Applicant submits that Claims 1 to 20 are in condition for allowance for immediate examination. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the application be promptly examined.

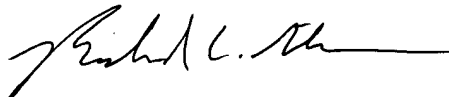
If the Examiner has any questions about this Preliminary Amendment or any other matter, please contact the undersigned attorney of record by telephone so that these remaining issues may be timely resolved.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Dated this 3 day of March, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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